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Lewis Reef road on track

By KDN Staff

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly affirmed a decision Monday to spend \$500,000 on the proposed Lewis Reef road after a discussion over whether the Gravina Island connection would be open to the public.

The Assembly voted 4-2 against repealing a motion that would dedicate \$500,000 in Land Trust Funds for the project. As proposed, the 2-mile road would connect the Pacific Log and Lumber mill on borough property to the north side of the Ketchikan International Airport and a possible future route to timber sales. Eventually, the road would join a proposed Gravina-to-Ketchikan bridge connection, according to borough officials.

Assembly Member David Landis said he was concerned to hear that public funding would be used for a road described as private at a September meeting. Landis supports the road project, but said the borough's process had become flawed.

Statements that the road wouldn't be public were tied to a proposal to let Pacific Log and Lumber build the project, Mayor Mike Salazar said Monday. The goal was to avoid borough-required Davis-Bacon wages, Salazar said.

"It needs to go out to bid and it's just going to cost more," he said. "It's going to be a public road."

For more information on this story, see Joanna Markell's article in the Oct. 7, 2003, edition of the Ketchikan Daily News.